

July 28, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As Congress examines the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger, I wanted to offer my perspective on the deal as it pertains to communities like mine.

More and more, our economy depends upon access to the newest technologies. I am the former state legislator and town board chairman of a small resort town in northern Wisconsin. I can tell you first hand that expanding broadband and wireless rollout is a crucial step we must take in order to attract business, retain business, and attract tourists.

The combined network of AT&T/T-Mobile would offer better density of wireless services, expand current capacity, and provide new services for underserved, remote communities. These capabilities are critical for small towns looking to attract tourism. Many vacationers who come from more urban areas demand amenities consistent with what they have at home, such as reliable broadband access and strong voice and data services.

I believe this merger would also assist smaller communities in their efforts to keep younger citizens local -- a major challenge we face. It could do so by creating more good-paying, year-round jobs and better educational opportunities. Improved access to the state-of-the-art technology offered in this merger could help fuel economic growth.

I believe allowing the AT&T/T-Mobile merger to progress would do just that, and I encourage you to approve it.

Sincerely,



Joe Handrick
Former State Representative and Minocqua Town Chairman

PO BOX 604
Minocqua WI 54548

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn